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In 1828 the treaty of Turkmanchai secured the northeastern part of the kingdom, with the capital, Erivan, to Russia. The remainder of the country had already been divided between Persia and Turkey. Erivan, now the seat of government of the Russian province of Armenia, is interesting on account of its industries and the remains of ancient grandeur.

Mount Ararat is the result of complex volcanic activity dating from the Cretaceous and Tertiary times, which ended in the production of the Great Ararat, now 17,092 feet in altitude, and the Little Ararat, 12,989 feet. The peaks are about seven miles apart as the crow flies. Eruptions ceased so long ago that the semblance of a summit crater has been almost entirely removed from the Little Ararat; while the upper four thousand feet of the Great Ararat are covered with eternal snow, concealing any evidence that there might otherwise be of ancient craters. The lavas of the Ararats belong to the rocks known as andesites—a class of medium acidity.

Rising as these mountains do in an isolated position from a plain scarcely three thousand feet above the sea, the grandeur due to their altitude has its full effect. They dominate the region for scores of miles in every direction, and when one views them in the light of the rising or the setting sun, under the glare of mid-day or by the light of the full moon, he does not wonder at the numerous legends which have grown up during the centuries in the minds of the shepherd tribes which inhabit the country.

NOTES ON THE U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.

TWENTY-FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT, 302 PP., 1902-1903.—The prompt issue of this report adds to its interest and value. The great additions to resources for the reclamation of the arid lands and for general hydrography receive suitable attention, a hydrographic branch having been organized under the direction of Mr. F. H. Newell. The appropriation for the year was \$1,377,470. Investigations in Alaska are noticed with fulness commensurate with recent expansion of work in that field.

In the topographic branch co-operation was effected with twelve States, New York leading in the appropriations with the sum of \$22,000, and 31,000 square miles, or nearly two-thirds of the State, had been covered to April 30, 1903. The report contains

biographic sketches of John Wesley Powell and Richard Urquhart Goode, with portrait of the former.

THE COAL RESOURCES OF THE YUKON, ALASKA, BY ARTHUR J. COLLIER, FORMS BULLETIN NO. 218.—It gives the results of explorations in 1902. The Yukon was followed from Dawson to the sea, and the economic facts are delineated upon a map covering the Territory from the international boundary to Bering Sea. The conclusions from large collections of fossils are yet to be published.

Coal of commercial importance is confined to two geological horizons—the upper Cretaceous and the Kenai series of the upper Eocene. Small basins of the latter age, representing freshwater deposition, and bearing lignitic coal, are found above the mouth of the Tenana, at Rampart, and northward. The Cretaceous coals occur extensively to the southwest along the lower Yukon. These are of better quality than the Eocene, and belong to the bituminous class.

The Yukon steamers chiefly use wood; but as there is a vast extent of navigable waters, the coal will have growing importance for this purpose, as well as in the various mining and commercial settlements. The average price paid for the coal hitherto mined has been about \$14 per ton. The deposits will suffice for local use, but their poor quality, small extent, and remoteness render mining for export impracticable.

Other recent bulletins are: The Ore Deposits of Tonopa, Nevada, by J. E. Spurr, No. 219; Mineral Analysis, 1880 to 1903, by F. W. Clarke, No. 220; Bibliography and Index of North American Geology, Paleontology, Petrology, and Mineralogy for the year 1902, by F. B. Weeks, No. 221; and Catalogue and Index of the Publications of the Hayden, King, Powell and Wheeler Surveys, No. 222.

THE MENOMINEE IRON-BEARING DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN, BY W. S. BAYLEY, MONOGRAPH XLVI.—This is the sixth and last volume on the iron districts about Lake Superior, to be followed by a closing monograph on the general geology of the entire region. Following the outline of the monograph are a bibliography and abstract of the literature (84 pp.) and a brief chapter on the physiography. The detailed discussion of the geology and the ore deposits follows, closing with a short review of the geological history. Two interesting plates (after Gresley) show organic markings in the Lake Superior iron ores, chiefly tracks and doubtful plant remains.

PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE GEOLOGY AND WATER RESOURCES OF NEBRASKA WEST OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND THIRD MERIDIAN, BY N. H. DARTON, PROFESSIONAL PAPER, NO. 17.—This has value for the geologist, the geographer, and for the prospective resident. The district is a belt about 60 miles wide along the Wyoming boundary. The report includes contour, relief, and geological maps of the entire State. There is also a review of the general geology of the State, and of this area in detail. This is followed by an account of the water horizons, springs and surface streams, and a map showing distribution of springs and underground waters. An irrigation map of the Platte valley in this area shows canals, with present areas of irrigation and others considered practicable. We find a diagram of the rainfall, and also a map showing the distribution of the forest lands.

A. P. B.

THE ZKARA, A CHRISTIAN TRIBE IN MOROCCO.

If in a remote corner of Italy a remnant of the Goths were discovered, speaking the language of Ulfilas, it would hardly create greater surprise than the news that a Christian tribe of natives, called Zkara, has been found in Morocco. Yet the details seem to leave hardly any doubt of the fact. They are set forth in the *Bulletin Trimestriel de Géographie et d'Archéologie d'Oran*, Tome XXIII, fasc. XCVII, October–December, 1903, by the discoverer, M. Auguste Mouliéras, Professor of Arabic at Oran. The remoteness of various parts of Morocco from the paths of invasion and commerce had long ago suggested to the author that some of these sequestered nooks might shelter remnants of ancient populations not submerged by the tide of Islam. After years of inquiry he was at length rewarded by a definite clue, and finally succeeded in interviewing some individuals of the tribe itself. His principal informant is thus described: "Height 1.70 m., nose aquiline, *eyes blue*, beard thin, expression distrustful in the extreme, with the absorbed and crushed appearance of those long tormented by misery."

The country of the Zkara is situated some 15 miles W. S.W. of the Moroccan town of Oujda*, quite close to the Algerian frontier, and consists, for the most part, of a high mountain mass called Jbel Zkara (Mountain of the Zkara), constituting a spindle-shaped island

* Oujda in the French spelling. Ujda is given in Century Atlas, 25 miles from the Mediterranean.